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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

First Inventor or Application Identifier

Title

Express Mail Label No.

Deanna T. Ongwela

Massage and Tactile Stimulation Device

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

- ☒ \* Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
- ☒ Specification [Total Pages: 10]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
  - Descriptive title of the invention
  - Cross References to Related Applications
  - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
  - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
  - Background of the invention
  - Brief Summary of the invention
  - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
  - Detailed Description
  - Claim(s)
  - Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets: 1]
- Oath or Declaration [Total Pages: 2]
  - ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
  - ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
    - ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

\* NOTE FOR ITEMS 7 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.37), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.38).

## ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

- ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
- Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(if applicable, all necessary)
  - ☐ Computer Readable Copy
  - ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
  - ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
- ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
- ☒ \* Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired  
(PTO/SB/09-12)
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
- ☒ Other: Request Under MPEP § 107.07(g)

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior application information: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUING or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

## 17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))—INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Deanna T. Ongwela

Application or Patent No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Filed or Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Massage and Tactile Stimulation Device

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.  
☐ the application identified above.  
☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.  
☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

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9/15/00  
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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Patent Application of

Deanna T. Ongwela

for

## **MESSAGE AND TACTILE STIMULATION DEVICE**

### **Background—Field of Invention**

This invention relates to a new and improved massage and tactile stimulation device having predetermined prominent projections with or without friction areas, for manual control and operation.

### **Background—Description of Prior Art**

Manual massage and tactile stimulation has been performed by the hand for years. Hand held objects or paraphernalia for massage and tactile stimulation, manual or electric, have been invented to assist with the task.

Massage gloves having a receptacle or receptacles adapted to accommodate a substance or substances during the massage have been invented as shown in U.S. patent 1,161,719 to Norton. However, these gloves do not address massage to deeper tissues.

Thereafter, U.S. patent 1,885,572 to Wood shows a massage glove with transverse ribs or ridges on the finger tips and a series or multiplicity of massaging elements or vacuum cups in the palm of the hand. The massaging elements and vacuum cups effect a combined

friction and traction upon the patient's body. This glove relies heavily upon the palm for effective execution. As well, it does not address massage to deeper tissues due to lack of massaging elements prominence.

A massage device utilized for lather formation and softening a man's beard is shown in U.S. patent 1,438,485 to Goldberg. It can also be utilized to receive and retain soap. This device massages the cutaneous covering, at best, not addressing the deeper tissues or advanced manipulations.

Animal gloves for massage and grooming with a plurality of bristles on the palm or palm and fingers are described in U.S. patent Nos. 5,768,709 to Newkirk et al. and 5,682,837 to Courtney et al. An animal grooming glove with a plurality of rubber projections having an internal portion including a substantially rigid material is shown in U.S. patent 5,524,575 to Lennon. These devices, though suitable for animals, are not suitable for human massage.

A scalp massaging implement for the finger with a rubber fingertip covering and a plurality of flexible rubber tines is illustrated in U.S. patent 4,308,860 to Sanders et al. A finger or hand mounted brush with bristles or plurality of bumps or a combination is shown in U.S. patent 5,765,252 to Carr for effective cleaning and massage. An implement for massaging the cutaneous covering is illustrated in U.S. patent 4,249,521 to Gueret. While sports gloves having a plurality of friction elements for enhancing the grip, control, and improving skills have been invented including the basketball glove in U.S. patent 5,500,956 to Schulkin et al. The projections of these inventions lack the prominence and shape necessary for massage to deeper tissues and are suitable for the cutaneous covering, at best.

Hand apparel with cleaning instrumentalities are shown in U.S. patent Nos. 3,643,386 to Grzyll, 5,441,355 to Moore, 4,593,427 to Ortolivo, and 5,419,014 to Piantedosi. There is no disclosure of these gloves as a massaging device for humans.

Massage footwear having foot stimulating, dome-shaped, spaced massage bumps and nonspecific rounded projections with areas that are lightly stippled to prevent slippage is illustrated in U.S. patent 4,694,831 to Seltzer. However, this is utilized in footwear or as a sole insert having defined accupressure bumps. These bumps are arranged to affect at least 12 key meridians of body function. There is no disclosure for use as a hand covering or versatility of location for use on other areas of the body.

The aforementioned inventions do not address the need for deep pressure, concentrated point specific pressure, vigorous rubbing on the skin, or handling of the muscles to relieve muscle spasms, trigger points, or the like during massage. The masseur must utilize a considerable amount of muscle energy, along with force and pressure on their joints for the benefits of massage to be realized on some recipients.

### **Objects and Advantages**

Among the objects of this invention is to provide a new and improved massage and tactile stimulation device in the nature of a hand covering such as a mitt, mitten, or glove worn upon the hand of the user, masseur, or therapist. More specifically, a glove having prominent projections of at least 0.14 inches (3.5 mm) in height, to facilitate deep and point specific pressure on the recipient, being with or without friction areas. These instrumentalities, secured at effective working areas, provide for distinct and improved manipulations over the human hand.

The advantages of this invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

Advantages include but are not restricted to:

- a) improved force and concentrated pressure on recipient due to prominence of projections;

- b) decreased direct force needed on joint's of manipulator's body to deliver improved manipulations to recipient;
- c) will stimulate deep pressure receptors in skin of desensitized limbs or parts of the body;
- d) enhances the tactile stimulation or massage of a layperson to a recipient without formal education of manual techniques.

Additional objects, advantages, and novel features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows of the preferred embodiment, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated on the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference throughout. Others will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon examination of this description or may be learned by practice of the invention.

### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Figure 1 shows the right palm view of the preferred embodiment of the glove.

Figure 2 shows a cross-sectional view taken along line 2-2 of Fig.1 illustrating use of a hemispherical projection.

Figure 3 shows an indented cone shape projection.

Figure 4 shows an elongated projection.

Figure 5 shows a canal shaped projection.

Figure 6 shows a second embodiment formed as a fist with the projection of Fig. 4 in place.

### **Reference Characters In Drawings**

2 cross-section through fifth digit	18 cone shaped projection
10 glove of preferred embodiment	19 indentation
12 hemispherical projection on pad of digit(s)	20 back view of second embodiment in fist
14 elliptical friction area	22 elongated projection
16 circular friction area	24 canal shaped projection

F surface of recipient

## Summary

This invention provides a massage and tactile stimulation device, comprising a flexible glove, having predetermined prominent projections with or without friction areas. Both instrumentalities may be of various shapes, predetermined sizes, colors, textures, and forms secured to the glove at effective working areas, in varied or distinct patterns.

## Description

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. It will be understood this device may be made in various sizes or different specific designs. It must be clearly understood that although each finger of the glove in Fig.1 is provided with a predetermined prominent projection for deep pressure, only one of the fingers may be provided with a projection. If desired, only a single finger tip can be used for applying deep pressure.

Therefore, the accompanying drawing is submitted merely as showing the preferred embodiment of this device. Application can be made to either hand of the manipulator. The illustration is that of a right hand appliance.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, illustrated is a device as comprising a glove 10. Glove 10 is made of any suitable resilient material of good quality such as lycra or spandex, being made by sewing or the like, in the preferred embodiment.

In the preferred embodiment, glove 10 has a predetermined prominent (FIG. 2) projection 12, illustrated as hemispherical. In a second embodiment, glove 20 (FIG. 6) has predetermined prominent projection 22 (FIGs. 4 and 6), illustrated as an elongated projection.



Projections 12 and 22 adhere to glove 10 and 20 by virtue of pressure sensitive adhesion or other method for bonding rubber to cloth, that provides stationary bonding. Projections 12 and 22 are secured to glove 10 and 20 at effective working areas to optimize use. Projection 12 is located on the pad of each digit. Projection 22 is located on the back of the first row of phalanges (proximal) to impart considerable force and pressure to the recipient when glove 20 is held in a clenched fist (FIG 6).

Projections 12 and 22 are applied to the surface of recipient F (FIG.2) with a stationary pressure or varied by a deep circular motion or frictional rubbing, either by full arm movement or merely the pressure of the digit(s). These techniques stimulate the sensory nerve endings for deep pressure, increase blood flow to area, and relieve muscle tension.

The preferred embodiment includes friction areas 14 and 16. Area 14 is elliptical in shape covering the palm pad of the thumb (thenar). Area 16 is circular in shape covering the pisiform bone located at base of the fifth digit pad (hypothenar). Adhered to glove 10 by the same method as projections 12 and 22, areas 14 and 16 are made of a rubber-like material with a sufficient coefficient of friction to facilitate improved manual manipulations such as grasping and frictional rubbing. Areas 14 and 16 are secured to glove 10 at effective working areas such as the palm region, between the thumb and index finger (not shown), and lateral fifth digit region (not shown). Areas 14 and 16 enhance manual manipulations over the human hand.

It will be understood that the device may be made in various sizes, varied or different specific designs, and for application to either hand of the manipulator. It is self evident with the device as illustrated, the projections (FIG. 2, 3, 4 and 5) and friction areas can be of various shapes, predetermined sizes, colors, forms, and textures. They can be varied on the

same glove, as well. Both can be secured to the glove at various effective working areas to maximize function of device and assistance to the manipulator.

The material for making this device can be of any with stretching capabilities, but grossly maintains its shape. This device can be made as any type of hand covering. An alternative to a hand covering is a covering for the elbow or foot (both not shown), as these areas are used for imparting massage, as well. However, use on the hand is the preferred embodiment.

Furthermore, various changes and modifications may be made to the embodiments described without departing from the scope of the present invention defined in the appended claims.

### **Conclusion, Ramifications, and Scope of Invention**

Thus the reader will see that the massage and stimulation device of this invention provides the manipulator with enhanced massage techniques and ease of use. In addition, it imparts to the recipient a multiplicity of improved manipulations due to the prominent projections of at least 0.14 inches (3.5mm) in height and friction areas.

The above description should not be construed as limitations on the scope of this invention, but rather as an exemplification of a preferred embodiment thereof. Many other variations are possible. For example, the glove can have a prominent projection of any predetermined size and shape on one digit only, such as the pad of the thumb. This device can appear as a functional hand covering that is used as a pouch with a prominent projection having the diameter of the central palm region. If desired, the glove can be manufactured without friction areas. The glove material can be textured for additional sensory input, particularly for desensitized limbs or areas of the body.

Thus the scope of the invention should be determined not by the embodiment illustrated, but by the appended claims and their legal equivalents.

Thus the scope of the invention should be determined not by the embodiment illustrated, but by the appended claims and their legal equivalents.

**Claims:** I claim:

1. A massage and tactile stimulation device comprising a hand covering constituting a flexible glove made of any suitable resilient material having a palm wall and a back wall, said walls connected by a means for joining two pieces of material, said glove having one or more predetermined upward projections secured at effective working areas of the glove, said projection being made of a rubber-like material providing a means for deep and point specific pressure to affect deeper tissues, said projection attached to said glove by means providing for stationary bonding, said device being with or without one or more friction areas made of a rubber-like material having a sufficient coefficient of friction to provide a means for imparting to the recipient improved manual manipulations, said friction area attached to said glove at effective working areas by means providing for stationary bonding.
2. The glove of claim 1 wherein said resilient material is lycra or spandex.
3. The glove of claim 2 wherein said means for joining 2 pieces of material includes sewing.
4. The glove of claim 3 wherein said rubber-like material of said projection is composed of polyurethane.
5. The glove of claim 4 wherein said effective working area for said projection include the pad of digits, palm, and region of the first row of proximal phalanges.
6. The glove of claim 5 wherein said stationary bonding for said projections and said friction area is pressure sensitive adhesion.

- whereby said device will impart deep pressure and improved manipulations to said recipient,
- and
- whereby said manipulator of said device will utilize said projection and said friction area to optimize the benefits of massage and tactile stimulation to said recipient.

## MASSAGE AND TACTILE STIMULATION DEVICE

**Abstract:** A massage and tactile stimulation device in the nature of a hand covering such as a mitt, mitten, or glove (10, 20)) to be worn on the hand of a masseur, therapist, or user (recipient) preferably in the embodiment of a glove (10). The device having one or more predetermined prominent projections (12,18, 22, 24) with or without friction areas (14,16). Both projections (12,18, 22, 24) and friction areas (14,16) may be of various shapes, sizes, colors, forms, and textures including smooth or pimpled. Both projections (12,18, 22, 24) and friction areas (14, 14') are secured to effective working areas of glove (10,20) to impart to a subject or patient a variety of distinct and improved manipulations such as deep pressure, grasping, and frictional rubbing.



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<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing      OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required).	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Deanna T. Ongwela
	<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	/
	<b>Filing Date</b>	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Massage and Tactile Stimulation Device

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

☒ is attached hereto  
OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
N/A			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.
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## DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)
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☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below			
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☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
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Deanna Thurman			Ongwela		
Inventor's Signature	Deanna T. Ongwela				Date
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☐ Additional inventors are being named on the supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto